

The present accomplishments of our various institutions of higher education are good and commendable. Our potentials for future achievement are unlimited. The challenge that confronts our State is immense, and we will need a continued full measure of dedication to higher education on the part of the trustees, the officers, the faculties and students of each separate institution to meet the great task that lies ahead.

We will also need the vital contribution of a vigorous and fearless Board of Higher Education which can assist us in charting that course which will give to the State a program of higher education which is strong in all parts, and which in its total result gives to North Carolina the best of which our State is capable, with a minimum of overlapping programs and with the least possible waste of public funds.

As you are aware, a very satisfactory agreement has been reached with respect to certain differences between the University Trustees and the Board of Higher Education, and recommended changes in present statutes, which I endorse, are supported by the Presidents and governing boards of other state institutions of higher learning and by the Board of Higher Education.

WELFARE AND HEALTH

We must always remember the obligation of government to provide assistance for those who cannot assist themselves. Many of our citizens, for reasons beyond their control, must rely on the help given to them under our welfare program. These citizens include those who are too old, too young, too disabled, or too ill to work, and who are without private means of financial support.

North Carolina has continued to maintain a good record in the administration of its public welfare program, its public health program, and its hospital program. Our welfare activities, insofar as possible, are designed to help individuals attain a position of self-support. In some instances, the welfare officials are hampered by a lack of proper laws in developing policies that are needed to improve administration. I urge your careful consideration of proposals which will be presented to you, including such matters as strengthening our support laws and making possible better control over welfare payments, especially those dealing with illegitimate children.

Outstanding results have been achieved during the past two years in the control and prevention of polio epidemics. In 1957, only 233 cases of polio were reported in North Carolina and in 1958 only 74 cases were reported. More than three and one-half million doses of Salk polio vaccine, made available under the Federal program, have been administered to more than one million children in North Carolina, with most of these voluntary immunizations administered during the past two years. However, it is estimated that more than 20% of our children and young people through age 19 (the age group most susceptible to polio) have never received any polio vaccination.

I believe the General Assembly should consider a law providing for mandatory polio vaccination, especially for younger children.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Our State for many years has maintained a soundly-operated employment security program. Our weekly benefit payments, in comparison with average